

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0158036		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	10/01/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	08/09/1999
<b>Decision Date:</b>	11/13/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	09/04/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	09/26/2014

### HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to an expert reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine, and is licensed to practice in California. He/she has been in active clinical practice for more than five years and is currently working at least 24 hours a week in active practice. The expert reviewer was selected based on his/her clinical experience, education, background, and expertise in the same or similar specialties that evaluate and/or treat the medical condition and disputed items/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

### CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 56-year-old male with an 8/9/99 date of injury. At the time (9/4/14) of the Decision for Compound of Lidocaine 6% + Hyaluronic Acid 0.2% cream #120 refill 1, there is documentation of subjective (neck pain and low back pain) and objective (lumbar spine had tenderness at the paravertebral musculature with spasm noted, seated nerve root test was positive, motion was guarded and restricted with flexion and extension,) findings, current diagnoses (displacement of thoracic or lumbar intervertebral disc without myelopathy), and treatment to date (medication).

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

The Final Determination was based on decisions for the disputed items/services set forth below:

**Compound of Lidocaine 6% + Hyaluronic Acid 0.2% cream #120 refill 1:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics, Page(s): 111-113.

**Decision rationale:** MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies that many agents are compounded as monotherapy or in combination for pain control; that ketoprofen, lidocaine (in creams, lotion or gels), capsaicin in a 0.0375% formulation, baclofen and other

muscle relaxants, and gabapentin and other antiepilepsy drugs are not recommended for topical applications; and that any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended, is not recommended. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of displacement of thoracic or lumbar intervertebral disc without myelopathy. However, the requested Compound of Lidocaine 6% + Hyaluronic Acid 0.2% cream #120 refill 1 contains at least one drug (lidocaine) that is not recommended. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Compound of Lidocaine 6% + Hyaluronic Acid 0.2% cream #120 refill 1 is not medically necessary.